

FBW GOOD NATIVE FIGHTERS

VETERANS SAY FORMER CHAMPIONS WERE INFERIOR.

Fit, Corbett and Sharkey could have trimmed Burns-Ketchel in it with Dempsey, Fitz and Ryan—Walcott, McAuliffe and Lavigne.

In the opinion of many veteran ring followers America appears to be going back in a pugilistic way, while for the first time in many years England seems to be coming to the front with really first class pugilists. Tom O'Rourke, who handled Dixon, Walcott and Sharkey when those pugilists were in their prime, is among those who hold this belief, and he has some excellent arguments.

"There are few really good fighters in America nowadays," said O'Rourke to *The Sun* man, "and why? Because the American fighters are losing their grit, it seems, while England is evidently developing skillful pugilists. I cannot account for it, but it is true nevertheless. Still in the next ten years America is likely to come back with a new crop of boxers who will beat the world."

To back up the opinion of O'Rourke and others it may be said that, taking the cases of Tommy Burns and Jack Johnson, who will fight for the world's heavyweight championship in a few days, neither would have been able to cope successfully eight years ago with such heavies as Jeffries, Fitzsimmons, Corbett and Sharkey. Burns would not have had a chance with any of these great pugilists, either in science or physical strength. Jeffries, in the opinion of practically every competent ring expert, would have stopped Burns in half a dozen rounds, if not in quicker time. Fitzsimmons, with his wonderful punches, might have disposed of Burns in fifteen, as he disposed of such fighters as Jim Hall, Dan Creedon, Sharkey and Rubin, for Burns has been outclassed in many ways by his best men.

Johnson, who has been outclassed in many ways by the Cornishman, Sharkey, with his rugged physique and hard hitting, which put such a clever man as Kid McCoy away, would have won Burns down and out, particularly when it is recalled that Burns could not stop such men as Philadelphia Jack O'Brien and Marvin Hart in twenty round bouts. How long would O'Brien or Hart have lasted in fights with Jeffries, Fitz or Sharkey? Corbett, with his wonderful cleverness, would also have made a monkey of Burns, the sharp insister, and so would Kid McCoy. The same goes for Johnson, even though he is a 200 pounder and probably the cleverest big man in the ring at the present time.

Would Stanley Ketchel and Bill Papke, the best middleweights in America today, have been in it with such title holders as Jack Dempsey, Fitzsimmons and Tommy Ryan? This query is answered in the negative by the veterans who have studied what is known as pugilistic science for years. Dempsey was a wonderful pugilist in his best days, scientific, game and a terrific hitter. So was Fitz, who weighed only 150 pounds when he won the heavyweight championship from Corbett at Carson City. Surely, say the experts, Fitzsimmons could have successfully defended the middleweight title in a bout with Ketchel or Papke, both good slugs and lacking in the scientific points of the game which made the Cornishman famous. Tommy Ryan too would have outclassed Ketchel, the boxing sharpie, for when he was fit he was one of the greatest boxers and ring generals in the world. It was Ryan who taught Jeffries how to fight Fitzsimmons successfully, and who was an achievement denoting brains and skill. Ryan beat many tough customers in his time and was a rugged, plucky fighter who never knew the meaning of a defeat.

Walcott was the undisputed welterweight champion of the world ten years ago. He beat not only men in that class, but knocked out middleweights, including Corbett and several heavyweights, notably Joe Choynski. At his best he was a phenomenal two handed fighter who could have easily beaten such welterweights as Sullivan, the present champion; Honey Melody, Matt Matthews and Rube Ferns. Those who remember Walcott as "the Giant Killer" say that it will be many years before the ring sees his equal at the weight.

What would Jack McAuliffe or Kid Lavigne have done to Battling Nelson, the present light-weight champion? Joe Gans, Packy McFarland, Freddie Welsh and a few others who are prominent in that class nowadays? Ask this question of any old time ring follower and he will reply that McAuliffe could have whipped Nelson and Gans in the same ring on the same night and that Lavigne would have had things just as easy. McAuliffe, the veterans declare, was the greatest lightweight that ever put up his hands while they also say that he had a worthy successor in Lavigne. There was nothing new about Lavigne's work in the ring. He was clever and cool, but he was also a natural born fighter who enjoyed slug-ging and who could hit like a pile driver. Lavigne showed his wonderful gameness when he beat Walcott at special weights over at Maspeth in the old days, for after being beaten to a pulp in nine rounds Lavigne came back and punched the negro into a helpless condition in the fifteenth and last round. Lavigne was out to pieces, but he won with plenty to spare. His last fight with Jack Everett at the Bohemian Sporting Club, in which he scored a knockout in the twenty-fourth round, was another test, for Lavigne came out of the mill with both eyes closed and a broken nose.

Gans was fighting well in those days, meeting Spike Sullivan, George McFadden and Frank Erne among others, but he never tackled Lavigne, and finally because of dissipation lost his title on a decision to Erne. It was after all these good lightweight fighters disappeared from the public view that Gans forced to the front. He became lightweight champion of the world, the veterans say, because he had an inferior lot of pugilists to beat, among them being Britt, a good boxer but nothing more. Nelson, a fighter from the ground up, beat Gans when he was practically at the end of his career, but not before Gans had stood on and beaten him on a foul after forty-odd rounds of hard milling.

Abe Attell is the featherweight cham-

pick of America. He is a superb boxer, but only a fair pugilist. Would he have classed with the remarkable George Dixon, who held the title for so many years? Or could he have beaten the cyclonic Terry McGovern when the latter was at top notch and had won the featherweight title by putting Dixon to sleep? Would Young Corbett, after stopping McGovern, have been an easy mark for Attell? And Dave Sullivan? Could Attell have put it all over him? Old timers say no with emphasis when asked all of these questions, and they think they speak by the card.

Going back a few years the experts declare that there will never be another bantamweight champion like Jimmy Barry of Chicago. They say that Barry could have knocked out such present day bantams as Johnny Conlon, Jimmy Walsh and Patsy Kilne in five minutes and wouldn't have overexerted himself either.

The assertion by O'Rourke and others that England is coming to the front in pugilism does not apply to the heavy and middleweight classes, but is confined to the light and featherweight divisions. Freddie Welsh is the best lightweight that England has sent over here since the days of Jim Clancy, and he is scientific, quick, plucky and a solid puncher. McFarland apparently does not want any of Welsh's game, so the Briton will doubtless be Nelson's next opponent in a forty-five round mill for the championship.

In Jim Driscoll England has sent a sterling featherweight there—a better man than Ben Jordan, it is believed, or any other Briton at the weight. Driscoll is clever, yet a fighter from his head to his heels. He is the recognized champion of England and will probably fight in each of the world's title fights. Owen Moran, another English "feather," has already demonstrated his worth by fighting two drawn battles with Attell, in each of which Moran insisted that he should have had the decision. Charley Griffin of Australia is another high class featherweight, but he does not begin to class with the memorable Young Griffo, who when he came here a dozen years ago as the best "feather" in the Antipodes was promptly proclaimed the greatest boxer in the world.

To offset some of these statements some ring followers say that when Stanley Ketchel has developed into a first class heavy weight, and has beaten Burns, Johnson or Kaufman in a battle for the championship of the world America will once again prove that her pugilists are the best in the universe. Ketchel, a white man, is an American born and brought up. Burns is a French Canadian, while a majority of ring followers, though admitting that Johnson can mill, do not want to have a negro win the heavy weight title, even though Johnson is a native of the United States.

A TOWN TOO MUCH REFORMED

HUDSON, OHIO, FINDS FLAWS IN ITS PERFECTION.

Effort to Get Telephone Poles Down Has Led to a Boycott of the Telephone Companies—Houses All One Color Since Ellsworth Became Patron.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 16.—The town of Hudson, Ohio, is not certain that it likes being Ellsworthed. It is a year since the existence of Hudson became known to the world at large through the announcement that J. W. Ellsworth, who had moved back to town from New York, would adopt the village and put in electric lighting, water and sewerage systems, to cost \$200,000.

So far houses have been changed, trees planted, hitching posts removed, street cars barred and numerous other ideas of the donor put into effect.

Two telephone companies are crippled and, villagers say, will be run out of business either by the boycott or the expense of complying with the conditions imposed.

Mr. Ellsworth was born in the village about sixty years ago. His parents were no different from others in the town. The boy earned the weekly paper in his published. He educated himself in Western Reserve Academy. Later he went to Chicago.

It was but a few years later that folks at home began to hear rumors that young Ellsworth had struck it rich in coal. The town of Ellsworth, Pa., was built and for the most part is still owned by the man whose name it bears.

Then J. W. Ellsworth came home to Hudson and built a mansion a mile north of the square on the main road. The single condition attending the first Ellsworth dip into philanthropy was that the offer should be kept secret by the committee of citizens to whom it was made, but the news soon leaked out. The offer was renewed with an added condition. The villagers should vote the town dry with the exception of one block which forms the corner of the square.

Ellsworth was the principal owner of the block. He promised to install a saloon that would not jeopardize the morals of

the village. Unfortunately the law interfered and knocked the project in the head. Hudson agreed to forego its eye-opener and nightcap, and the whole town went dry.

But the new municipal plants did not follow. Instead of the saloons Ellsworth built a full two story brick building on the corner and installed in it the Hudson National Bank.

Then came other conditions. The village Councilmen, whose principal semi-monthly transactions had been the improving of the Mayor's salary voucher, found themselves passing a real ordinance calling for flagging to replace board, cinder and dirt walks.

Ellsworth sent thanks along with a suggestion that the "city" could be further beautified by shade trees at regular fifty foot intervals on all public streets. "There shall be shade trees," said the Council.

Then came the third suggestion. Hitching posts on the public streets were a nuisance already too long tolerated. The Council sat up and blinked, but the ordinance went through. A committee of public spirited women made a "post to post" canvass to see that the order was enforced. The posts began to disappear even as flagstone and shade trees marked the further advance of civilization in the town.

But the Ellsworth brain kept working. It was the fourth suggestion that gave Hudson a real blow. The Hudson color scheme was hard on the Ellsworth optics. All houses should be painted white with green trimming and red roofs. Houses of the Ellsworth type now appear with remarkable frequency. No dwelling since painted is adorned with any other color scheme.

The climax came a few months ago. Previous to being Ellsworthed Hudson had enjoyed the services of two telephone companies—the Bell company and an independent. Telephone poles and wires interfered with the free growth of the Ellsworth shade trees. The Council had never given the poles and wires a thought. Now they suddenly discovered in them an eyecore that must be removed at once.

The Council meeting lasted far into the night, and the noise of combat kept Hudson from its bed. Then, while the town gasped, the ordinance was passed. Poles were a nuisance and wires should be banished to underground conduits. The village managers of the telephone companies were consumed with mirth.

They refused to make the change. Charged at this, his first public rebuke, Ellsworth made a store to store canvass the next day. Many of the men visited were Ellsworth tenants. There was pleading and there was threatening.

So it happened that on the evening of the very same day nearly every line running to a Hudson store showed "trouble" in the two exchanges. The phone managers, who also acted as "trouble shooters" found everywhere the same difficulty. The receiver dangled from its wire. "That receiver is down and it stays down till your poles and wires go down. You can take the phone out now," was the universal verdict.

A hastily organized committee followed up the method throughout the township.

In a week the two hello girls almost suffered hysteria when a call came in. Mechanically they connected the line with the manager's office.

"Take this phone out," was the order. "The boycott on the telephone companies is still on. It has been growing for two months. Out of nearly 300 phone subscribers all but twenty have muffled the bell and started the receiver dangling. Farmers put their phones out of service in sympathy."

Two merchants were included in the twenty. Ellsworthites do not patronize them and nearly everybody in the town is Ellsworthed. The telephone companies still refuse.

"Get every phone out and the lines will be dead," advised the Council. "Dead

lines are a nuisance on the streets and we will serve thirty days notice on the companies to remove them. At the end of that time we will remove them ourselves if they refuse."

Good Word for the Red.

From the Kansas City Journal. Had it not been for a wire roll used in dressing the hair, Gertrude Brown, the fourteen-year-old daughter of P. S. Brown, would undoubtedly have lost her life when she was thrown from her horse yesterday afternoon. It so happened that Miss Brown had rolled her hair higher than usual yesterday afternoon and so the wire roll created the brunt of the fall. The injury was directly under the roll and was a jagged three centimeter. The girl fell on the back of her head upon a loose stone in the street and the wire roll covered with hair kept the stone from fracturing the skull.

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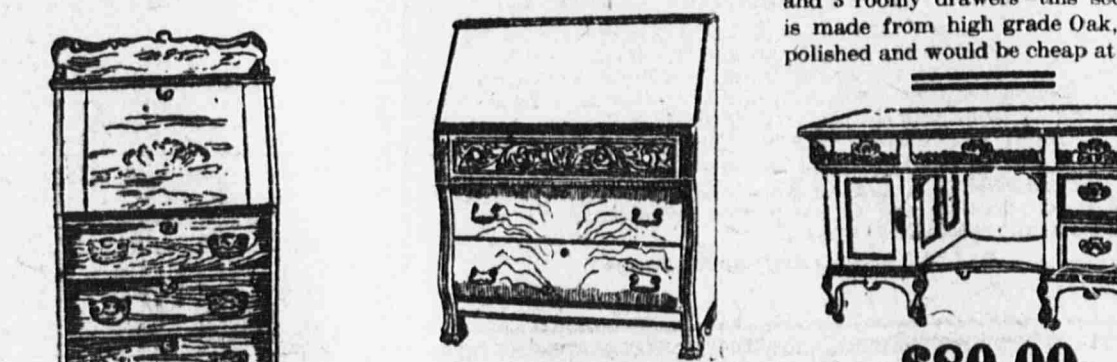
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